

The School Board Corner

By Edward Sullivan, George Washington District

April 2003

The snow has melted, the temperature is rising, and it must be spring. It was certainly a long rough winter with many snow days and disrupted schedules. I know all of our teachers are working hard to prepare for SOLs, and I want to thank all of the teachers, parents, and students for their positive attitude and for making the best of the situation that was dealt us.

As many of you may know, Mr. David Kerr resigned his Aquia School Board seat. Mr. Kerr was a dedicated supporter of quality education in Stafford County, and we will miss him. We were very fortunate that we had four highly qualified candidates step forward and seek his seat. The Board interviewed all four candidates and, although it was a difficult decision, Mr. Robert Hunt was named as Mr. Kerr's replacement at the March 11th meeting. Mr. Hunt has an impressive background – a master's degree in Mathematics and taught and coached at the high school level. Mr. Hunt has successfully run his own business and has served on numerous School Board committees in Stafford County. Mr. Hunt will serve until a special election is held in November 2003. I ask you to join me in giving him a warm welcome to the Board.

Every year, the school budget is always a challenge, and this year is no exception. Unfortunately, money is tight, and the task of providing a quality education only gets more difficult. The Board of Supervisors (BOS) has tried to cover the gap left by the state under funding; however, local tax dollars can only stretch so far. The BOS and the School Board have been seeking alternative ways to make the budget work. One new direction we are involved in is through the Public Private Educational Act (PPEA), which permits us to seek private public partnerships that may help build the schools that we so desperately need. We recently issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) and had over 30 companies respond. Our hope is that the potential partnerships will provide alternatives to the escalating cost of new school construction.

We will be opening a new elementary school in the fall of 2004. The school will be built on the Armstrong property, which is located off Route 630. The School Board will be looking for community input in naming the new school; therefore, if you have any ideas, please let us know.

Your School Board welcomes your input, please call or email us with your concerns and enjoy your spring break.

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